



ROLE OF A SYNOD MEMBER

A SYNOD FOR THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LIVERPOOL

“It is a long established practice in the Church to use the term ‘Synod’ for decisive meetings at significant times where members of the Church come together to review one or more issues and make decisions.

Over fifty years after the Second Vatican Council and in view both of the multiple challenges facing us as well as the opportunities that contemporary cultural changes afford us, we are at a significant moment in the history of our Archdiocese.

There is clear duty on us to discern carefully together what the Spirit is saying to the Church in the Archdiocese of Liverpool and agree on common goals and actions for the coming years.”

+ Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool

SYNOD 2020

The Synod Day itself will be in October 2020 when the 500 Synod Members gather in Liverpool to discern and decide the way ahead for our diocese. These Synod members will include priests, deacons, religious sisters and brothers, and representatives of every parish and pastoral area and will reflect the rich diversity of our Archdiocesan community.

The two years leading up to Synod 2020 are most crucial and the participation of the whole diocese in this time of listening and discernment will determine what emerges from our Synod. The Synod members will also have a crucial role to play in this stage of our journey.

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Synod members will be tasked with listening, reflecting and discerning. They will be asked to find ways of listening to the concerns, needs and reflections of their communities and to ‘re-present’ these to the Synod where they will be gathered together, in a coherent fashion.

Synod members will be called to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit guiding the life and mission of the Church in this place and time. After reflection and discernment the main themes from the local conversations will emerge. These will be added to the other models of discerning and listening. Synod members will be asked to take the themes back to their communities, where they will begin to formulate the concrete proposals upon which the Synod gathering will vote in October 2020.

No prior theological knowledge or expertise is required for this important role but personal commitment, preparation, prayer, being open to guidance, and enthusiasm are crucial to it.

Those considering putting themselves forward for this task must be willing and able to commit to the Synod process for a period of 2 years. Members will be expected to be present for the one and a half days of the Synod and to attend a number of preparatory gatherings which will prepare them to work with other Synod members in their Pastoral Areas to lead ‘local’ gatherings at each stage of the Synod journey. (See timeline overleaf)

Dec 2018	Parish and Pastoral Area Synod Members are finalised.
2019	
Sunday 3 Feb	Synod Opening Ceremony at the Cathedral
9 or 13 or 16 Feb	Meeting of Members (Members attend any one of the three)
Lent 2019	Discernment Preparation (Various Dates)
29 April—10 May	Pastoral Area gathering of all Members
May—June 2019	Listening and discernment in parishes (Member-led)
21 or 25 or 28 Sept	Meeting of Members (Members attend any one of the three)
Oct—Jan 2020	Pastoral Area Pre-Synod I (One in each PA)
2020	
Feb—May 2020	Pastoral Area Pre-Synod II (One in each PA)
13 or 17 or 20 June	Meeting of Members (Members attend any one of the three)
June—Oct	Local Meetings (Member-led) to look at Synod Proposals
17 Oct	Synod Saturday (Sunloch Suite, Aintree)
18 Oct	Synod Sunday (Cathedral)
25 Oct	Members present outcomes in their parishes

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOU

The role of Synod Member should be uplifting, inspiring, and rewarding but it will also be a demanding and busy task. The Synod Office is here to support you every step of the way and, in particular, we promise that:

- Appropriate and accessible resources will be provided
- The preparatory events and the training that we offer will equip, enthuse, and enable you to fulfil the role
- We will support you in your task and will offer additional support and guidance as and when it is needed
- There will be [optional] opportunities for members to reflect, relax, and celebrate together throughout
- The Synod Co-ordinator (Matt Jeziorski) will be your main point of contact and is there to support every step of the journey

THE SYNOD OFFICE

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